

Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SAJ-01 AID-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 IO-13 /110 W
----- 107695

R 241452Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1399
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18497

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, IP
SUBJECT: SOVIET-NEPAL RELATIONS: KING BIRENDRA'S VISIT

REF: KATHMANDU 4748

1. SUMMARY. THE MAIN ITEM OF BUSINESS DURING THE
KING'S NOV 16-22 VISIT TO THE USSR WAS APPARENTLY THE
NEW AID AGREEMENT SIGNED ON NOV 19. THE COMMUNIQUE
ALSO SPELLS OUT IN SOME DETAIL NEPAL'S SUPPORT FOR SOVIET
DISARMAMENT INITIATIVES AND THE TWO SIDES REITER-
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ATED COMMON POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. NEITHER

ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY NOR NEPAL AS A ZONE OF PEACE WERE MENTIONED, BUT SOME OF THE COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE IMPLIES THAT BOTH WERE DISCUSSED. NO MILITARY TOPICS WERE MENTIONED, BUT THE SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER WAS PRESENT FOR THE BANQUETS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA (NOV 23) CARRIES THE TEXT OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. ASSUME DEPT AND KATHMANDU HAVE TEXT. THE MAIN POINTS IN OUR READING ARE:

--THE NEW AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION SIGNED ON NOV 19 BY SOVIET FOREIGN AID CHIEF SKACHKOV AND NEPALESE AMBASSADOR RANA; NO DETAILS WERE GIVEN.

-- NEPALESE ENDORSEMENT OF SOVIET DISARMAMENT INITIATIVES, WHICH ARE SPELLED OUT INDIVIDUALLY: "GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT," WDC, NUF, CTB, CW, MDW, REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS.

--ABSENCE OF ANY DIRECT REFERENCE TO ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY. THE CLOSEST REFERENCE WAS A FAVORABLE JOINT MENTION OF CSCE FOLLOWED BY A CALL FOR THE "PROCESS OF DETENTE" TO BE APPLIED TO "OTHER REGIONS".

--ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE TO NEPAL AS A ZONE OF PEACE-- A PROPOSITION WHICH NEPAL SOUGHT PRESUMABLY AS A SLAP AT INDIA. THE CLOSEST REFERENCE IN THE COMMUNIQUE WAS THE JOINT ENDORSEMENT OF A STATEMENT OF "PRINCIPLES" FOR THE CONDUCT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN "ALL STATES," WHICH REPEATED THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AND ADDED SUPPORT FOR "EVERY PEOPLE" TO FOLLOW ITS OWN FATE, TO OPPOSE ANNEXATION THROUGH AGGRESSION AND TO ASSERT SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS NATURAL RESOURCES.

-- ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, THE TWO SIDES HAILD THE "VICTORIES" OF VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA AND SUPPORTED VIETNAM'S ADMISSION TO THE UN; ENDORSED THE OLD SOVIET THREE-POINT POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST; CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF "ALL FOREIGN FORCES" FROM CYPRUS; OPPOSED

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"FOREIGN INTERFERENCE" IN KOREA; SUPPORTED A BETTER ECONOMIC DEAL FOR LDCS (AND NEPAL ENDORSED THE SOVIET UN STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS); NOTED THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE UN; CALLED FOR SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE.

-- PODGORNYY ACCEPTED THE KING'S INVITATION TO VISIT NEPAL AT A TIME "CONVENIENT FOR HIM" (I.E. PODGORNYY).

3. THE COMMUNIQUE THUS SHOWS NO DRAMATIC BREAKTHROUGHS BUT DOES CONFIRM THE CONTINUATION OF FRIENDLY SOVIET-NEPALESE RELATIONS. AS REFTEL PREDICTED, ECONOMIC MATTERS -- SPECIFICALLY ADDITIONAL SOVIET AID--WERE APPARENTLY THE MAIN BILATERAL TOPICS, WITH POLITICAL ISSUES FOLLOWING PREDICTABLE LINES. WE WERE MILDLY STRUCK, HOWEVER, BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH NEPAL SIGNED ON EXPLICITLY TO VIRTUALLY EVERY SOVIET DISARMAMENT PROPOSAL. IN VIEW OF PEKING'S STRIDENT OPPOSITION TO SOVIET DISARMAMENT "FRAUDS," MOSCOW IS LIKELY TO SEE NEPAL'S ACQUIESCENCE ON THESE POINTS AS A NET PLUS IN ITS CONTINUING COMPETITION WITH CHINA.

4. ON THE KEY POLITICAL ISSUES OF ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND NEPAL AS A ZONE OF PEACE, WHICH PODGORNYY AND THE KING MENTIONED SEPARATELY IN THEIR WELCOMING BANQUET SPEECHES, THE TWO SIDES APPARENTLY DECIDED SIMPLY TO LEAVE OUT BOTH AND TO TALK AROUND THEM USING THE LANGUAGE CITED ABOVE.

5. NEITHER THE COMMUNIQUE NOR THE BANQUET SPEECHES MENTIONED MILITARY MATTERS, BUT SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER USTINOV WAS LISTED AS PRESENT AT BOTH THE WELCOMING BANQUET AND THE KING'S RETURN LUNCHEON. (USTINOV WAS NOT LISTED AS HAVING TAKEN PART IN ANY OF THE TALKS, HOWEVER.) THE NEPALESE MILITARY ATTACHE TOLD AAIRA ON NOV 23 THAT SOVIET ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF KULIKOV, TOGETHER WITH USTINOV, HAD TAKEN PART IN SOME OF THE EVENTS DURING THE VISIT. KULIKOV WAS NOT LISTED, HOWEVER AND THE SAME ATTACHE TOLD AN FRG EMBOFF EARLIER IN THE WEEK THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY TALKS ON SOVIET ARMS SUPPLIES. ALTHOUGH THE QUESTION MAY HAVE COME UP, WE SEE NO OPEN

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EVIDENCE THAT MILITARY QUESTIONS WERE A PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGES.

6. THE KING DID NOT MEET WITH BREZHNEV DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE LATTER RETURNED FROM YUGOSLAVIA ON NOV 17 AND THE KING LEFT MOSCOW ON NOV 19. SUCH A MEETING WAS NOT EXPECTED AND WAS NOT REQUIRED BY PROTOCOL, BUT ITS ABSENCE INDICATES THAT THE SOVIETS DO NOT PLACE NEPAL IN THE FIRST RANK OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES.

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